



**COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA  
COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE**

**City of San Diego  
Sixth District**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 12, 2009  
**TO:** Mayor Jerry Sanders  
**FROM:** Councilmember Donna Frye  
Councilmember Todd Gloria

*Donna Frye*  
*Todd Gloria*

**SUBJECT: Outside Contracts in FY10 Budget**

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The City of San Diego contracts out many of its services, however, it is difficult for the public and City Council to ensure that the contract requirements are being followed and taxpayer dollars are being properly spent. The municipal code limits the executive branch's ability to award a contract without City Council approval- requiring all contracts worth more than \$250,000 to be voted on by Council prior to their award. Unfortunately, there have been several cases where the executive branch has exceeded this cap by virtue of awarding a smaller contract that morphs into a larger undertaking as the contract is implemented.

In the spirit of open government and transparency, all city contracts in excess of \$25,000 should be posted online on the city's website, and any contractor that has received in excess of \$25,000 cumulative from the city also should be posted with links to all contracts awarded to that contractor. The list should be updated and kept current throughout the course of the year. This transparency will provide the City Council and public with advance notice of contracts that contain scopes of work that may eventually trigger the threshold for City Council approval.

At a minimum, in advance of the release of the FY 2010 Budget, please make available to the public and provide to the City Council a comprehensive list of outside contracts the city will be engaged in during the upcoming fiscal year that have a value over \$200,000. Having this information available will allow us to have a full picture of what the city spends on various services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CC: Honorable City Councilmembers  
Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst  
Jay Goldstone, COO

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